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OFFICIAL

December 19, 2003

VIA FACSIMILE

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To: Examiner Chen, Tianjie Facsimile No.: (703) 872-9306
Group Art Unit No. 2652
U.S.P.T.O.

From: James E. Howard Facsimile No.: (703) 761-2375 (76)

Re: Enclosed § 1.116 Amendment
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/502,454
Our Ref: YAS.018

Dear Examiner Chen:

Enclosed is the Amendment, responsive to the October 1, 2003 Office Action, which should place the above-referenced case in condition for allowance.

Thank you in advance for your consideration on this case.

Very truly yours,


 James E. Howard

JEH/kzw
Enclosure
Total No. of Pages Transmitted: 20

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DEC 19 2003

In re Application of

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Naoki Soeda

Serial No.: 09/502,454 Group Art Unit: 2652

Filed: February 11, 2000 Examiner: Chen, Tianjie

For: MAGNETIC DISK APPARATUS WITH SEPARATE PRINTED-CIRCUIT BOARDS

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Box AF
Alexandria, VA 22313 - 1450

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL REJECTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.116

Sir:

In preparation for imminent appeal and in response to the Office Action dated October 1, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Claims 1-3, 5-10, 12 and 14-17 are all the claims presently pending in the application.

Claims 1-3 and 7 have been amended to more clearly define the invention. Claims 14-17 have been withdrawn from prosecution. Claims 1 and 16-17 are independent.